

2. **(Twice Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the catalytic reduction leading to the formation of the metallic precipitate is obtained by the precipitation of a metallic compound upon the bound target compound.

4. **(Twice Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the catalytic reduction leading to the formation of the metallic precipitate is a reduction of a metal in the presence of an enzyme.

5. **(Twice Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the catalytic reduction leading to the formation of the metallic precipitate is a chemical reduction of silver in the presence of colloidal gold particles coupled to the bound target compound.

14. **(Amended Four Times)** A diagnostic and/or quantification apparatus comprising:

a solid support comprising an array comprising at least 20 discrete regions per  $\text{cm}^2$ , each of said regions being fixed with one species of a capture molecule which recognizes a target compound, said target compounds bound to some of said capture molecule leading to a catalytic reduction of a metal present in solution, and a formation of a metallic precipitate in one or more discrete region(s);

a detection and/or quantification device for detecting said precipitate in said discrete region(s); and

a computer programmed to collect the results obtained from said detection and/or quantification device.

28. **(Amended)** The method of Claim 1, wherein said metallic precipitate is formed on the surface of a particle associated with said target compound.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14 and 28 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 15 is found in the specification as filed on page 5, lines 30-34, page 7, line 32 to page 8, line 1, page 9, lines 11-12 and page 20, lines 22-27. Support for the amendment to claim 28 is found in prior claim 2.

The following remarks address the substance of the Office Action: